Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04497 280626Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------280633Z 107857 /14
O 280440Z MAY 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4209

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4497

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: GROUND TROOP WITHDRAWAL: KOREAN PRESS COVERAGE

REF: STATE 122480

1. I WELL UNDERSTAND AND SHARE CONCERN REGARDING INITIAL KOREAN PRESS COVERAGE OF GENERAL SINGLAUB'S STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, AFTER INITIAL FLURRY, PRESS THE PAST TWO DAYS HAS TAKEN INCREASINGLY POSITIVE STANCE, FOLLOWING LEAD OF OFFICIAL ROKG STATEMENTS AND BRIEFING. HABIB/BROWN PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 27 RECEIVED TOP PRESS PLAY, ALONG WITH ROKG STATEMENTS EMPHASIZING COMPENSATORY AND COOPERATIVE MEASURES, AND ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. DECISION ON GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWAL AS FINAL. SINGLAUB WAS PUSHED TO BACK PAGES MAY 27. THIS LINE OBVIOUSLY STANDS TO INTEREST OF PRESIDENT PARK, WHO MUST NOW GET HIS PUBLIC TO BUCKLE DOWN AND ACCEPT GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWAL, ALONG WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER KOREAN DEFENSE EFFORTS.

2. THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PRESS PROBLEM THE PAST FEW DAYS, NAMELY, PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMENTS ON PARK'S ADVOCACY OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL. I HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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SENT SEPTEL ON THIS QUESTION.

3. I INTEND TO KEEP A VERY CLOSE EYE ON HOW PRESS AND THE KOREAN GOVERNEMT HANDLE GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWAL STORY. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF ABOVE, WOULD PREFER TO HOLD OFF HITTING ROKG ON PRESS COVERAGE DIRECTLY. BUT, AT ALL APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES, I WILL CONTINUE TO POINT OUT

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THAT WE BOTH MUST TAKE POSITIVE RATHER THAN PESSIMISTIC VIEW
OF WITHDRAWAL, AND EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE ACTING FROM STRENGTH
AND WITH ASSURANCE SECRITY OF KOREA CAN BE MAINTAINED. I
PLAN TO STRESS THIS VIEW IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF
PUBLIC STATEMENTES AND PRESS COVERAGE.

4. UNDERSECRETARY HABIB DEPARTED SEOUL BEFORE RECEIPT
REFTEL BUT I HAVE CHECKED GIST OF ABOVE WITH HIM AND HE WILL
CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO YOU DIRECTLY.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NATIONAL SECURITY, TROOP REDUCTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977056/aaaaafbf.tel
Line Count: 72
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Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2529364
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GROUND TROOP WITHDRAWAL: KOREAN PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, SOPN, MARR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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